



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666  
FAX (916) 654-9780

June 15, 2000

The Honorable Doug Ose  
United States House of Representatives  
1508 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ose:

This is in response to your recent inquiry regarding the derivation of the amount of water supply storage used in CALFED's environmental analysis. Your question arose during the May 31, 2000, meeting of the California Senate Select Committee on the CALFED Water Program.

As you know, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program draft programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report provides information on possible environmental effects of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, including development of additional water storage capacity in the Bay-Delta estuary and watershed. We based our analysis on a range of possible additional storage capacity, from no additional storage up to 6 million acre-feet (MAF) of additional storage capacity:

"The total volume of surface water and groundwater storage being assessed for the Preferred Program Alternative ranges up to 6.0 MAF. Facility locations being considered are located in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and in the Delta. A list of sites for further consideration is included in the Revised Phase II Report appendix. Those surface storage projects that appear most feasible are noted in the Revised Phase II Report Appendix".

*Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. Main Document, p. 2-14. CALFED Bay-Delta Program.*

We developed this range of zero to 6 million acre-feet in early 1997. At that time, we performed a set of preliminary evaluations to determine an appropriate range of storage to be examined at a programmatic level. In these evaluations, we made a rough approximation of water supply benefits for various storage volumes, recognizing that different types of storage facilities would provide different kinds of benefits. Storage

---

**CALFED Agencies**

**California** The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Department of Food and Agriculture

**Federal** Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Forest Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Western Area Power Administration

Honorable Doug Ose  
June 15, 2000  
Page Two

north of the Delta would probably be operated differently than storage adjacent to the Central Valley Project and State Water Project aqueducts south of the Delta. Additionally, groundwater banking and conjunctive use programs could enhance benefits provided by surface storage.

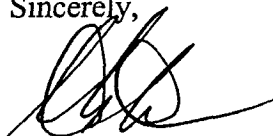
Our preliminary analysis indicated that most water supply benefits of Sacramento River off-stream storage are achieved with about 3 MAF of additional storage, while most water supply benefits of south of Delta off-aqueduct storage are attained with about 2 MAF of additional water storage capacity. Due to engineering concerns, smaller volumes of storage are practical for San Joaquin tributary and in-Delta surface storage. Finally, we estimated that groundwater storage volumes of 250 thousand acre-feet (TAF) in the Sacramento Valley and 500 TAF in the San Joaquin Valley were the most practical volumes for study purposes. These estimates of water supply benefits depend on many assumptions, of course, including capacity of conveyance facilities to provide water to off-stream storage locations and rules governing operations of these facilities.

This analysis provided us with a general guideline for selecting a reasonable range of additional storage for programmatic analysis. Based on these preliminary evaluations of potential water supply benefits and on practical considerations of acceptable levels of impacts and total costs, we decided – again, for purposes of preparing a programmatic evaluation – to consider a range of additional water storage of zero to 6 MAF.

I would like to point out that our studies of water storage facilities are not limited to water supply benefits. Through our Integrated Storage Investigation (ISI), CALFED agencies, including the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, have undertaken a series of studies of water management actions, including the development of additional storage capacity. I have enclosed material from March 2000 describing the ISI for your information.

I hope this information is helpful. Please call me at (916) 657-2666, or Daniel McCarroll, CALFED legislative coordinator at (916) 653-5704, if you have additional questions on this material.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Ritchie  
Acting Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Senate Select Committee on CALFED Water Program